

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: J. S. Ruggles
Natsuhiko MIZUTANI et al.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 1795
Application No.: 10/529,892)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 7800
U.S. National Stage Completion)	
Under 35 U.S.C. § 371: November 22, 2005	:	
)	
For: NEAR-FIELD LIGHT GENERATING METHOD	:	
AND NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL HEAD USING A)	
LIGHT BLOCKING METAL FILM HAVING A	:	
FINE OPENING WHOSE SIZE IS NOT MORE)	
THAN A WAVELENGTH OF IRRADIATED	:	
LIGHT, AND NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL)	
MICROSCOPE HAVING THE OPTICAL HEAD	:	
(As Amended))	November 17, 2009

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION
OF PAPERS TIMELY FILED

Sir:

Applicants have received a Notice of Allowance and a Notice of Allowability dated October 30, 2009, in the above-identified application. Applicants, however, filed an Information Disclosure Statement on May 4, 2005, prior to issuance of the Notice of Allowance on October 30, 2009. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the


material submitted in that Information Disclosure Statement by initialing and returning a copy of the PTO-1449 form attached to that paper.

Attached, for the Examiner's convenience, is a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement, the PTO-1449 form which accompanied that paper, and a copy of the date-stamped postcard indicating receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement on May 4, 2005, by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants believe that no fees should be incurred in connection with filing this paper. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fees be associated herewith.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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SEW/eab
FCHS_WS 4245178_1

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date 5 / 4 / 2005
Mo. Day Yr.
Atty. Docket # 03681.103107
Application # 105297982

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

- ☐ Response to Official Action. _____
☐ Check for \$ _____ (claims fee)
☐ Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 and Check for \$ _____
☐ Notice of Appeal and Check for \$ _____
☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and fax (4)
☐ Claim for priority and certified copies of _____ priority applications

☐ Issue fee transmittal and Check for \$ _____
☒ Other (specify) Letter transmitting Replacement Sheet of Drawings
& Figs. 2A & 2B
by placing your receiving date stamp hereon and returning to deliverer.

Atty. SAW/DAD/EOB Due Date _____
Mo. Day Yr.

FD-350-D-00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Natsuhiko MIZUTANI et al.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/529,982)	
	:	
Entry into U.S. National)	
Stage Under 35 U.S.C. § 371: April 1, 2005	:	
	:	
For: NEAR-FIELD LIGHT GENERATING)	May 4, 2005
METHOD, NEAR-FIELD EXPOSURE	:	
MASK, AND NEAR-FIELD EXPOSURE	:	
METHOD AND APPARATUS)	

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. A copy of the Japanese patent document (with English language abstract) and a copy of the non-patent document are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 8-179493 is discussed on pages 2-3 of the subject specification.

U.S. Patent No. 6,171,730 is discussed on page 3 of the subject specification.

U.S. Patent Nos. 6,304, 527 B1, 5,973,316, and 4,659,429, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/031299 A1, and Fang Chen et al. "A study of near-field aperture geometry effects on very small aperture lasers (VSAL)" were cited in an International Search Report, which was mailed on March 23, 2005, from the European Patent Office in corresponding

International Application No. PCT/JP2004/014445. Copies of the International Search Report and Written Opinion mailed March 23, 2005 are also enclosed.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Divine", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) May 4, 2005			ATTY DOCKET NO. 00684.103107		APPLICATION NO. 10/529,982	
APPLICANT Natsuhiko MIZUTANI et al.						
FILING DATE April 1, 2005				GROUP Unassigned		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	US 6,171,730 B1	01/09/2001	Kuroda et al.	430	5	
	US 5,973,316	10/26/1999	Ebbesen et al.	250	216	
	US 6,304,527 B1	10/16/2001	Ito et al.	369	44.23	
	2002/0031299 A1	03/14/2002	Hatakoshi	385	31	
	US 4,659,429	04/21/1987	Isaacson et al.	156	644	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO OR ABSTRACT
	8-179493	07/12/1996	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	International Search Report mailed March 23, 2005, issued in International Application No. PCT/JP2004/014445.
	Written Opinion mailed March 23, 2005, issued in International Application No. PCT/JP2004/014445.
	Chen, Fang, et al., "A Study of Near-field Aperture Geometry Effects on Very Small Aperture Lasers (VSAL)," Proceedings of the SPIE - The International Society For Optical Engineering, Vol. 5069, No. 1, September 16, 2003, pp. 312-318.
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.